



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/678,020

10/04/2000

Kiichiro Takahashi

1272.C0439

6101

5514

7590

06/30/2008

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

BRINICH, STEPHEN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/30/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/678,020	Applicant(s) TAKAHASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner STEPHEN M. BRINICH	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7-12 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7-12 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**

Address : COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09678020	10/4/00	TAKAHASHI ET AL.	1272.C0439

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

STEPHEN M. BRINICH

ART UNIT	PAPER
2625	20080529

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

/S. M. B./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1, 7-9, 12, & 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (JP 04-033470 A).

Re claims 1, 9, 12, & 20, Takahashi discloses (Abstract) an image processing apparatus having printing means in which preestablished printing conditions (different types of recording media) are recognized. The apparatus judges which printing condition the printing means should perform when printing an output based on an image to be printed. The printing means performs density correction in accordance with the printing condition (the type of recording media used). Specifically, the printing means forms dots of different sizes (by ejecting controlled quantities of ink) in accordance with the image data (e.g. forming large dots of a given color in image regions of that color), and corrects the dot size in accordance with the printing condition (type of recording medium).

Takahashi does not specifically describe the use of a retaining means for retaining density correction data for each of these printing conditions. However, Takahashi does state that

the correction of the amount of ink ejected is changed in response to the identified recording medium. To perform this function as described inherently requires that the system retains the data necessary to associate a given recording medium with a specific amount of ink ejection amount correction.

Re claims 7 & 18, Takahashi discloses (Abstract) that the printing means has a plurality of printing elements (cyan, magenta, yellow, and black nozzles), each of which has an ink ejection amount corrected in this manner (which, as noted above, inherently requires the retention of correction data for each).

Re claims 8 & 19, as noted above, Takahashi discloses (Abstract) that the printing elements are cyan, magenta, yellow, and black nozzles. Each of these nozzles is inherently associated with the raster of pixels having that color.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 10-11 & 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Applicant's described Prior Art.

Re claims 10 & 21, Takahashi does not specify the use of thermal energy as the ink ejection mechanism.

Applicant describes as known Prior Art (Specification, page 1, lines 24-27) printing mechanisms that perform ink ejection via thermal energy.

Takahashi and Applicant's described Prior Art are combinable because they are from ink printing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the Takahashi ink ejection amount control in a thermal energy inkjet printer.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to enable the contrast, sharpness, or coloring of a thermal energy inkjet printer to remain consistent across various recording media, as described by Takahashi (Abstract, final sentence).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takahashi with Applicant's described Prior Art to obtain the invention as specified in claims 10 & 21.

Re claims 11 & 22, Takahashi does not describe simulating printing by the printing means in order to judge the printing condition.

Applicant describes as known Prior Art (Specification, page 4, line 26 - page 5, line 4) the printing of a test pattern (which simulates an actual printing run).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a test print to judge the corrections associated with printing conditions (different types of recording media).

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to enable the accurate determination of what specific correction is required for each specific recording medium.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takahashi with Applicant's described Prior Art to obtain the invention as specified in claims 11 & 22.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 3/14/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues (3/14/08 Response: page 6, line 8 - page 7, line 2) that the presently claimed invention differs from the art of record (Takahashi or Takahashi in view of Applicant's described Prior Art) in that the judging means or step of the presently claimed invention judges the printing condition based on image data to be printed.

However, the recitation of a means (claim 1, line 9) or step (claim 12, line 9) "based on the image data to be printed" is ambiguous as to its referent - i.e. whether the recited "judging [as to] which printing condition" or the recited "perform printing" is "based on the image data to be printed". In Takahashi, the performance of printing is clearly based on the image data to be printed, insofar as the printed image corresponds to the input image.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning the contents of this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Brinich at 571-272-7430.

Any inquiry relating to the status of this application, entry of papers into this application, or other any inquiries of a general nature concerning application processing should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 Customer Service center at 571-272-2600 or to the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199 or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 2625

The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 8:00-5:30, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to contact the examiner and the Customer Service Center are unsuccessful, supervisor David Moore can be contacted at 571-272-7437.

Faxes pertaining to this application should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 official fax number, which is 571-273-8300.

Hand-carried correspondence may be delivered to the Customer Service Window, located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

/S. M. B./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Thomas D Lee/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625